

**The Catholic Parish
of
Our Lady, Star of the Sea**



28th Week of Ordinary Time, Year A
Sunday Cycle A, Weekday Cycle I, Psalter Week IV

“... I have my banquet all prepared,
my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered,
everything is ready. Come to the wedding.”

Matthew 17:19

Parish Priest: **Fr Pádraig Hawkins**
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Parish Address: **The Catholic Presbytery**
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Parish Web Site: www.ourladystarofthesealowestoft.wordpress.com

R.C. Diocese of East Anglia:
A Registered Charity (Charity Commission No. 278742)

Parish Church: Catholic Church of Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Gordon Road, Lowestoft, NR32 1NL.

Chapel of Ease: St Nicholas' Catholic Church, Morton Road, Lowestoft, NR33 0JQ.

Other Clergy: Rev. Fr. Stephen Bould; Rev. Fr. Neville McClement, Rev. Mr. Stephen Pomeroy.

Parish Newsletter: Items for consideration need to be sent to Fr Pádraig - frpmfoh@gmail.com – by Wednesday Evening please. The Completed Newsletter will be posted on the Website each Saturday.

Catholic Primary School: St Mary's, Kirkley Cliff Road, NR33 0DG. Tel: 01502 565384. For more information please visit the school website: <https://www.stmarysreps.com>

Gospel Reflection

“Immediately after criticizing the religious leaders through the parable of the tenants in last Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus proceeded to tell another parable, again directed at the religious leaders. In the parable of the wedding feast, Jesus offers an image of the kingdom of heaven using the symbol of a wedding banquet. In today’s first reading from the prophet Isaiah and in today’s psalm, the Lord’s goodness is evident in the symbol of a feast of good food and wine. Jesus’ listeners would have been familiar with the image of a wedding feast as a symbol for God’s salvation. They would consider themselves to be the invited guests. Keeping this in mind helps us to understand the critique Jesus makes with this parable. The context for this parable is the growing tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem. This has been the case for the past two Sundays and will continue to be true for the next several weeks. The parable Jesus tells is straightforward. The king dispatches his servants to invite the guests to the wedding feast that he is planning for his son. The listeners would have been surprised to learn that the first guests refused the invitation. Who would refuse the king’s invitation? A second dispatch of servants follows. Again to the listeners’ great surprise, some guests ignore the invitation. Some of the invited guests even go so far as to mistreat and kill the servants. The king invokes his retribution against these murderers by destroying them and burning their city. We might stop here for a moment. Why would some guests kill the servants sent to invite them to the king’s wedding feast? It might be possible that the king was a tyrant, evidenced by the destruction of the city of those who refused his invitation. But if we follow this idea, then the allegory seems to be about something other than the kingdom of heaven. It is more likely that the destruction of the city would have been a powerful image corresponding to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70, which would have been an important event for Matthew’s audience. With the invited guests now deemed unworthy to attend the king’s wedding feast, the servants are sent to invite whomever they can find. The guests arrive, but it appears that accepting the king’s invitation brings certain obligations. The guest who failed to dress in the appropriate wedding attire is cast out of the feast. We are reminded that while many are invited to the kingdom of heaven, not all are able to meet its requirements. God invites us to his feast, giving us his salvation. Yet he asks us to repent for our sins. Jesus’ message in the parable cautions against exclusive beliefs about the kingdom of heaven. The parable also teaches about humility. Those who assume that they are the invited guests may find that they have refused the invitation, and so others are invited in their place. To accept the invitation is also to accept its obligations. God wants our full conversion in complete acceptance of his mercy.”

Please do visit the “Wednesday Word” Website each week for short Reflections on the Sunday Readings: <http://www.wednesdayword.org/sunday-gospel.htm>

First Holy Communion & Confirmation

Preparation Classes for First Holy Communion (Year 3 and above) and for Confirmation (Year 8 and above) have already begun. For late admittance please speak to Fr Pádraig.

Collections for Ukraine Relief

The Lowestoft outlet for the donation of goods for Ukraine has now closed. The KSC thank all donors who have responded these past months but will not hold any further collections. Any money donated to 'KSC Council 518' by mid-November to assist the Hope Now Christmas Mission 2023 will be forwarded by the Knights in time for this project. Contact Bro Chris. Brooks - Tel. (01502) 563208.

Dates for your Diary...

16/10/2023 - The AGM of Christians Together in Lowestoft & District takes place at St. Benedict's Church, Hollingsworth Road, on Monday 16th October at 7.00 pm.

02/12/2023 – The Parish Christmas Fayre will take place on Saturday 2nd December 10am to 1pm. Any donations for raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated.

09/12/2023 – The Christmas Quiz will take place on Saturday 9th December at 7pm. Teams of 6. £5 per Ticket and will include a buffet and refreshments.

17/12/2023 – The Parish Carol Concert will take place at 2:30pm on Sunday 17th December, Gaudete Sunday, followed by Mince Pies and Mulled Wine.

Catholic Youth Ministry Internships

Castlerigg Manor (The Lancaster Diocese Retreat Centre) is looking for young Catholics aged 18-25 to join their Youth Ministry Internship Programme. The scheme gives participants wide ranging experience, skills, training, and qualifications as well as the opportunity to work with a fantastic team based in the English Lake District. For more information contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk

Upcoming Second Collections for 2023

21st/22nd October – Missio – APF – World Mission Sunday.

25th/26th November – Diocesan Youth Service – Youth Sunday.

16th/17th December – Diocesan Dependant Priests' Fund.

Weekly Collection

Thank you for last week's collection which amounted to £445.81 (Plus the regular standing orders of c.£477). Your continued financial support for your parish, the diocese and the wider Universal Church is much needed and very much appreciated.

We Pray for...

We pray for all in our Parish who are currently unwell and who are suffering from illness of one kind or another, praying especially for the housebound who are not able to join us for regular worship. We pray also for those who have recently passed away and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time; may they rest in peace. Names of the Sick and the Deceased may be written in the Parish Prayer Books and will be prayed for.

Mass & Service Times for the Coming Week: October 15th – October 21st

- Saturday 14th - 17:00 - Our Lady's** (28th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: Marie Fernando (RIP)
- Sunday 15th - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** (28th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 15th - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (28th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for:
- Monday 16th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Feria)
Offered for:
- Tuesday 17th - 12:30 - Our Lady's** (Mem, St Ignatius of Antioch)
Offered for: Fr Pádraig Hawkins' Intention
- Wednesday 18th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Feast, St Luke)
Offered for:
- Thursday 19th - 12:00 - Our Lady's** (Feria)
Offered for:
- Friday 20th - 09:00 - Our Lady's** (Feria)
Offered for: Fr Stephen Bould's Intention
- Saturday 21st - NO MASS TODAY** (Feria)
Offered for:
- Saturday 21st - 17:00 - Our Lady's** (29th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for:
- Sunday 22nd - 09:00 - St Nicholas'** (29th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: People of the Parish
- Sunday 22nd - 11:00 - Our Lady's** (29th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)
Offered for: Tony Long (RIP)

Confessions: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place every week during Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (from 9:30 to c.10am) following the 9am Mass on Saturday Morning. One may also make an appointment with Fr Pádraig for confession at another suitable time.

Mass Intentions: If you would like to have a Mass offered for someone, living or deceased, or for a particular intention (exams, interview, etc.), please collect a pre-printed envelope from the back of the church. Details of your request, including the preferred date, can then be entered on the front of the envelope (legibly please) and then your offering may be placed inside before being given to Fr Pádraig.
